

Testimony of the CT Association of Public School Superintendents

IN OPPOSITION TO: SB 66

An Act Extending Paid Sick Leave to School Paraprofessionals

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) **opposes** Senate Bill #66 *An Act Extending Paid Sick Leave to School Paraprofessionals* for the following reasons.

- The Act would impose one more unfunded mandate upon local school districts. The burden of mandates upon school districts is already so heavy that it is depriving the districts of the ability to improve and transform themselves to provide for children the education that they need to be prepared for further education and/or for a productive career. The burden is so great that it is imperative that the legislature impose no further mandates and that it commission a study of existing mandates with a view to relieving the burden. Adding one more costly mandate, therefore, cannot be justified.
- The Act would remove from consideration an item that has properly been the subject of collective bargaining negotiations between local boards of education and the bargaining agents for paraprofessionals. In fact, the Act would give to those bargaining agents a victory before negotiations even begin. Such one sided intrusion by the Legislature into the collective bargaining process cannot be justified.
- The Act would constitute a judgment by the Legislature that in every school district in the state, spending money for paid sick leave for paraprofessionals is more important than hiring teachers, buying instructional materials for students, providing social and emotional health assistance for children and other such items. Every year, local boards of education are more and more challenged to find the funds to provide an adequate education for every child that the boards

serve. Adding an additional mandated expense, therefore, cannot be justified.

CAPSS, therefore, urges the Legislature not to enact this SB #66